(c)   separating the affinity particles from the unbound remainder of the sample;

(d)   optionally, resuspending the affinity particles in a solution;

(e)   optionally, eluting said molecule from the affinity particles, followed by separating the affinity particles from said eluted molecule;

wherein at least one of steps (a), (b), (c), (d) if present, and (e) if present is performed in the presence of detergent sufficient to reduce loss of particles during any separation step, in comparison to the same method performed in the absence of detergent.

In Claim 3, after "Claim", delete the terms "1 or".

In Claim 14, after "Claim", delete the terms "1 or".

15. (amended) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said particles are coated with an affinity ligand selected from the group consisting of antibodies for a particular antigen, antigens for a particular antibody, antibodies recognizing a class of molecules, streptavidin, streptavidin-tagged fusion proteins, biotin, biotin-tagged fusion proteins, glutathione, cellulose, amylose, ion exchange groups, hydrophobic interaction groups, [oligo-dT, nucleic acid polynucleotides complementary to a nucleic acid of interest,] binding molecules for cell-surface markers, phage ligands, antibodies recognizing cell or phage surface antigens, and polypeptides, nucleotides or small molecules capable of affinity interactions with a binding partner selected from the group consisting of [another] peptides, polypeptides, and proteins [, DNA, RNA, and small molecules].

In Claim 16, after "Claim", delete the terms "1 or".

In Claim 23, after "Claim", delete the terms "1 or".

In Claim 24, after "Claim", delete the terms "1 or".

In Claim 25, after "Claim", delete the terms "1 or".

In Claim 26, after "Claim", delete the terms "1 or".

In Claim 27, after "Claim", delete the terms "1 or".

In Claim 28, after "Claim", delete the terms "1 or".

In Claim 29, after "Claim", delete the terms "1 or".

In Claim 30, after "Claim", delete the terms "1 or".

In Claim 32, after "Claim", delete the terms "1 or".

34. (amended) A method for isolating a peptide, polypeptide, or protein molecule from a sample in a vessel, comprising the steps of:

(a)   providing a multiplicity of affinity particles and incubating said particles in the presence of a detergent;

(b)   combining the sample containing a peptide, polypeptide, or protein molecule of interest with affinity particles suitable for binding said molecule, said affinity particles being insoluble in the sample;

(c)   collecting the affinity particles;

(d)   separating the affinity particles from the unbound remainder of the sample;

(e)   optionally, resuspending the affinity particles in a solution;

(f)   optionally, eluting said molecule from the affinity particles, followed by separating the affinity particles from said eluted molecule;

wherein any of the steps (b), (c), (d), (e) if present, and (f) if present may optionally be also performed in the presence of detergent, wherein the use of detergent is sufficient to reduce loss of particles during any separation step, in comparison to the same method performed in the absence of detergent.

In Claim 44, after "Claim", delete the terms "33 or".

In Claim 45, after "Claim", delete the terms "33 or".

46. (amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein said particles are coated with an affinity ligand selected from the group consisting of antibodies for a particular antigen, antigens for a particular antibody, antibodies recognizing a class of molecules, streptavidin, streptavidin-tagged fusion proteins, biotin, biotin-tagged fusion proteins,

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glutathione, cellulose, amylose, ion exchange groups, hydrophobic interaction groups, [oligo-dT, nucleic acid polynucleotides complementary to a nucleic acid of interest,] binding molecules for cell-surface markers, phage ligands, antibodies recognizing cell or phage surface antigens, and polypeptides capable of affinity interactions with a binding partner selected from the group consisting of [another] peptides, polypeptides, and proteins [, DNA, RNA, and small molecules].

In Claim 47, after "Claim", delete the terms "33 or".

In Claim 54, after "Claim", delete the terms "33 or".

In Claim 55, after "Claim", delete the terms "33 or".

In Claim 56, after "Claim", delete the terms "33 or".

In Claim 57, after "Claim", delete the terms "33 or".

In Claim 58, after "Claim", delete the terms "33 or".

In Claim 59, after "Claim", delete the terms "33 or".

In Claim 60, after "Claim", delete the terms "33 or".

In Claim 61, after "Claim", delete the terms "33 or".

In Claim 62, after "Claim", delete the terms "33 or".

In Claim 63, after "Claim", delete the terms "33 or".

64. (amended) A method for isolating a peptide, polypeptide, or protein molecule from a sample in a vessel, comprising the steps of:

(a)   combining the sample containing a peptide, polypeptide, or protein molecule of interest with magnetic affinity particles suitable for binding said molecule, said magnetic affinity particles being insoluble in the sample;